

ESPRIT ORCHESTRA

2011-2012
CONCERT SEASON

ALEX PAUK
MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

STIRRED SO MUCH / STRUCK BY SOUND / GRIPPED BY PASSION / TURNED ON BY TEXTURE

MUSIC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

ALEX PAUK
Music Director
and Conductor

"THIS SEASON,
ONE OF
DISCOVERY
AND
ADVEN-
TURES IN
LISTENING,
CAN
BEST BE
DEFINED
BY THE
SUGGESTIVE
TITLES"

This season's programming reflects my ideal to both develop new repertoire and highlight pieces new to Esprit and Canada. We'll also reprise compelling music we've commissioned or played before. Artists with whom we've built vibrant musical relationships are invited back and new talents also appear.

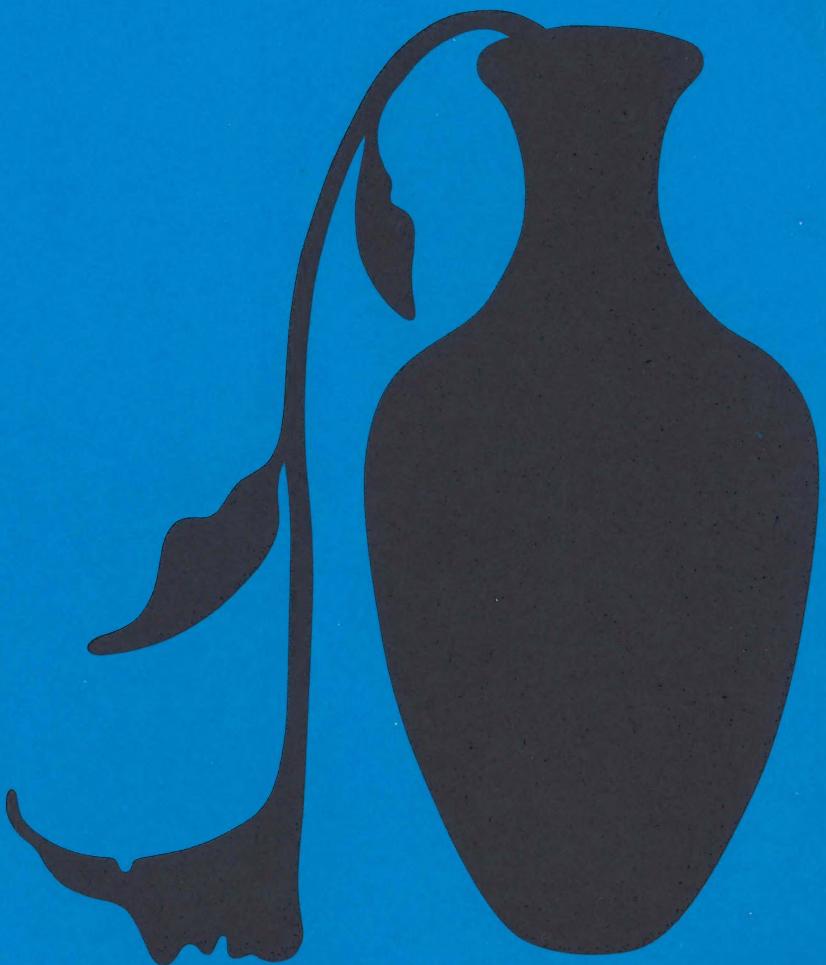
We'll launch *Maki Ishii Live*, Ryan Scott's exciting new CD of percussion concerti, all of which were recorded on Esprit concerts. It will be my pleasure to give the Toronto premiere of an important recent piece by Chris Harman whose work we've supported since he was 18.

Ligeti and Xenakis, composers who dramatically changed 20th century music, are represented by landmark pieces. I've programmed music by the important but lesser known Italian Giacinto Scelsi along with a brand new piece by Jimmie LeBlanc, a rising Canadian star. The season opens with John Corigliano's thrilling *Symphony #1*, a deeply moving masterpiece often referred to as "the AIDS symphony."

This season, one of discovery and adventures in listening, can best be defined by the suggestive titles I've given the concerts.

Please join us for this diverse and dynamic concert series. Be stirred, struck, gripped and turned on by Esprit!





STIRRED SO MUCH

ALEX PAUK
conductor

SHAUNA ROLSTON
cello

WED, OCTOBER 19, 2011
8:00 PM CONCERT
7:15 PM PRE-CONCERT TALK
TICKETS: 416.408.0208 OR
PERFORMANCE.RCMUSIC.CA

KOERNER HALL AT THE
ROYAL CONSERVATORY IN THE
TELUS CENTRE FOR
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273 BLOOR ST. WEST

ARVO PÄRT

Cantus in memory
of Benjamin Britten

CHRIS PAUL HARMAN
*Silver Threads
Among the Gold*

DOUGLAS SCHMIDT
*The Devil's Sweat**
(*Carbon Concerto*
for carbon cello and
orchestra)

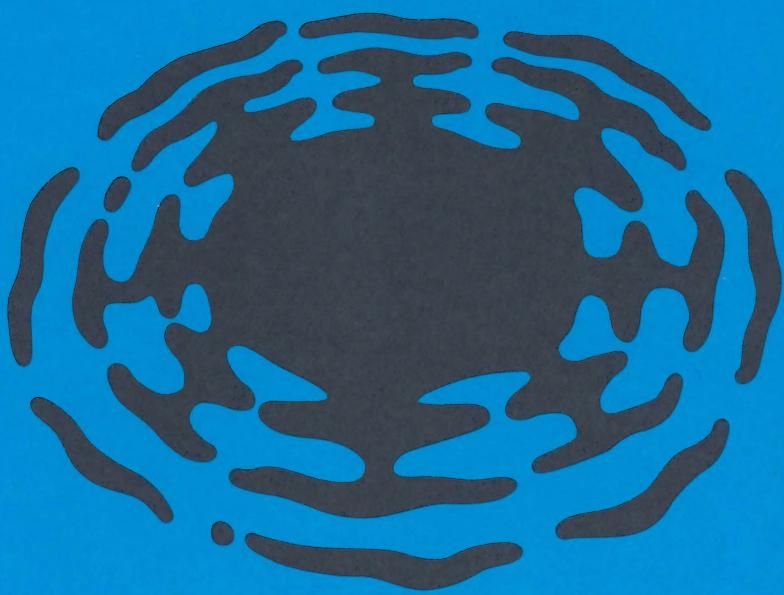
JOHN CORIGLIANO
Symphony #1

Cantus is Pärt's tribute to a composer he greatly admired but never got the chance to meet.

A gramophone and a recording of a popular 19th century American song (*Silver Threads Among the Gold*) were among the few possessions novelist Joy Kogawa's family was permitted to keep when sent to an internment camp for Japanese Canadians during WWII.

Schmidt's work reflects on the unsettled mood of most people on the planet these days, but not in an overly dark way. Its title also hints at the challenges provided for Shauna whose carbon cello, supposedly, can be dropped from a plane in flight and not be damaged.

Profound feelings stirred in Corigliano, who lost many friends and colleagues to the AIDS epidemic, lead him to compose his transcendental *Symphony #1*, memorializing those he had lost or was losing.



STRUCK BY SOUND

ALEX PAUK
conductor

RYAN SCOTT
percussion

TBA
piano

WED, NOVEMBER 30, 2011
8:00 PM CONCERT
7:15 PM PRE-CONCERT TALK
TICKETS: 416.408.0208 OR
PERFORMANCE.RCMUSIC.CA

KOERNER HALL AT THE
ROYAL CONSERVATORY IN THE
TELUS CENTRE FOR
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273 BLOOR ST. WEST

MAKI ISHII
South – Fire – Summer
(for percussion solo
and orchestra)

ANA SOKOLOVIC
Nine Proverbs

UNSUK CHIN
Rocanā

VALENTIN SYLVESTROV
Postludium
(Symphonic Poem for
Piano and Orchestra)

Ishii's dynamic music sets the pace for this concert, combining of Western techniques with sounds of traditional Japanese music. On this occasion, virtuoso Ryan Scott will launch his new CD – *Maki Ishii Live* – performances recorded at Esprit concerts.

Sokolovic's *Nine Proverbs*, inspired by the painting of the same name by Brueghel the Younger (1564-1647), represents the painting's depiction of the proverbs through nine contrasting atmospheres connected by modes, chords, rhythmic structures and colours.

Chin's *Rocanā* (Sanskrit for "room of light") is a kaleidoscopic tonal sculpture translating light phenomena – distortions, refractions, reflections, undulations – into sound.

Sylvestrov's *Postludium* begins with emotional outbursts, moves to lyrically pastoral meditation and dissolves in an "anti-cadenza" – a coda for the concert – lingering, suspended in time.



GRIPPED BY PASSION

ALEX PAUK
conductor

TBA
mezzo-soprano

TENG LI
viola

SUN, FEBRUARY 26, 2012
8:00 PM CONCERT
7:15 PM PRE-CONCERT TALK
TICKETS: 416.408.0208 OR
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KOERNER HALL AT THE
ROYAL CONSERVATORY IN THE
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PERFORMANCE AND LEARNING
273 BLOOR ST. WEST

CLAUDE VIVIER
Wo Bist du licht!
(*Light, Where Are You?*)
for mezzo-soprano,
ensemble and tape

GIACINTO SCELSI
*Ohoi (I principi creativi -
The Creative Principles)*
for 16 strings

JOHN REA
Zefiro torna
(*The Zephyr Returns*)

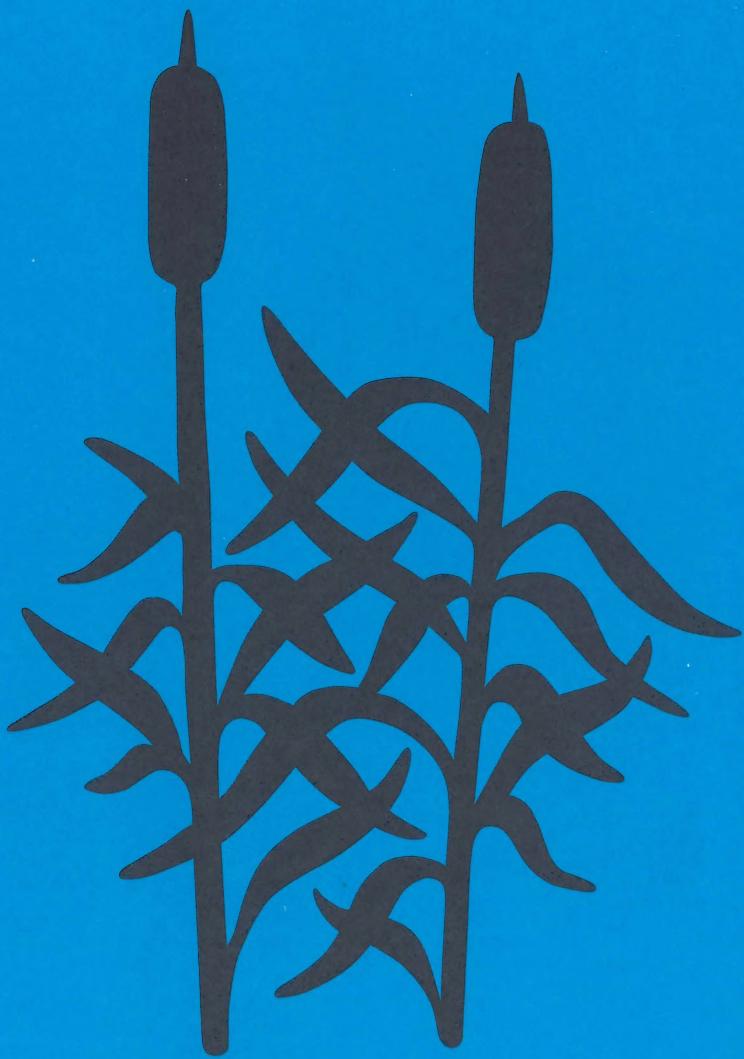
ALFRED SCHNITTKE
*Concerto for Viola
and Orchestra*

Vivier's piece, an impassioned plea for light, or enlightenment, layers instruments, sung texts and recorded sound (including Martin Luther King's last speech) in a sensuous work of tremendous emotional impact.

Ohoi reflects Scelsi's feeling that he was a medium or emissary merely translating and passing on things received in a state of meditation.

Zefiro torna engages traces of music by Monteverdi with other musics, and ancient winds of a more ominous nature, finally to emerge when the gentle and agreeable wind Zephyr returns ... again.

Schnittke's concerto, lovingly incorporating music from film, dance halls, brass bands and Soviet military marches, is pure passion in its conception and what it requires of the soloist.



TURNED ON BY TEXTURE

ALEX PAUK
conductor

JAMES PARKER
piano

THURS, MARCH 29, 2012
8:00 PM CONCERT
7:15 PM PRE-CONCERT TALK
TICKETS: 416.408.0208 OR
PERFORMANCE.RCMUSIC.CA

KOERNER HALL AT THE
ROYAL CONSERVATORY IN THE
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273 BLOOR ST. WEST

GYÖRGY LIGETI
Lontano
(for large orchestra)

JIMMIE LEBLANC
*The Touch of Psyche**
(*Le Toucher de Psyché*)

HARRY SOMERS
The Third Piano Concerto

IANNIS XENAKIS
Jonchaires
(for large orchestra)

Ligeti and Xenakis, perhaps more than any others, changed the course of 20th century music. In *Lontano*, Ligeti's technique of "harmonic crystallization" yields a complex, woven, iridescent harmonic texture. This iconic piece can be heard in the Hollywood blockbusters *The Shining* and *Shutter Island*.

LeBlanc's work extends the energy of his "performative gestures" to that of "performative masses" – tensions and textures traverse and constitute the sonic matter itself – from deep opacity to ethereal brilliance.

Somers' concerto reveals the composer's most mature style and is a valuable, original addition to the piano concerto repertoire.

Jonchaires (meaning "reeds" or "rushes"), with its volcanic energy of layered textures, pounding rhythms and intertwining sonic trajectories, also contains some of Xenakis' most delicate and lyrical music.

BEYOND THE CONCERT HALL

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ESPRIT EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMMES, OR TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE GROWTH OF THESE PROGRAMMES, VISIT ESPRITORCHESTRA.COM

Esprit's *Toward a Living Art Programme* provides free orchestral open rehearsals and performances for students, teachers, parents accompanying the class on the excursion to witness the orchestra at work, preparing for an upcoming public concert.

Creative Sparks Mentoring and Creative Leadership Programme pairs students with composers and performers in a classroom setting. Composers and orchestra musicians meet with students over a three month period to initiate and coach students in the development of a group composition. The program culminates with a public performance of the compositions at Esprit's *New Wave Composers Festival*.

Criss-Cross is a multi-layered, multidisciplinary mentoring program involving a creative work by young people of varying artistic abilities and social backgrounds. This outreach venture is a community-based project that introducing students to diverse contemporary art forms and career opportunities within cultural industry.

Esprit Orchestra's Annual *New Wave Composers Festival*, with a focus on newly discovered talent, highlights

commissioning, performing and promoting brand new music by Canada's best and brightest composers as well as programming outstanding works from abroad. The *New Wave Composers Festival* draws young composers from across Canada providing for interaction with the public and a wide range of professionals in the music business.

The *New Wave Composers Festival* activity provides for an exciting mix of ideas in the perfect setting for Esprit's *Creative Sparks* and *Criss-Cross* mentoring programs which introduce high school and middle school students to Canada's creative music scene.

All activities are free of charge. Support comes from The Canada Council, Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council, generous individuals, corporations and foundations – in particular, the Julie-Jiggs Foundation, the Max Clarkson Family Foundation, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the SOCAN Foundation.

Coffee Chats and soirees take place throughout the year with composers and musicians attending to broaden the understanding of new works.

2011-2012 CONCERT SEASON

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Yes, I wish to receive information about upcoming Esprit concerts, events and special offers.

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<input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL SUBSCRIPTION	<input type="checkbox"/> NEW SUBSCRIPTION
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Subscription Pricing

PACKAGES	4 CONCERTS			3 CONCERTS		
	Under 30	Regular	65+	Under 30	Regular	65+
PREMIUM LEFT OR RIGHT PARTERRE Rows A-N		\$218.40	\$188.64		\$173.10	\$149.39
PREMIUM ORCHESTRA / 1ST BALCONY Rows E-P, 1st Balcony A-E, Loges 12 & 15	\$68.00	\$199.20	\$172.32	\$53.25	\$157.80	\$136.38
REGULAR ORCHESTRA / 1ST BALCONY / 2ND BALCONY Rows A-D & Q-U, Parterre P-U, Loges 11 & 16, 2nd Balcony		\$183.20	\$158.72		\$145.05	\$125.54

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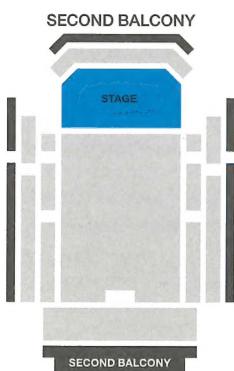
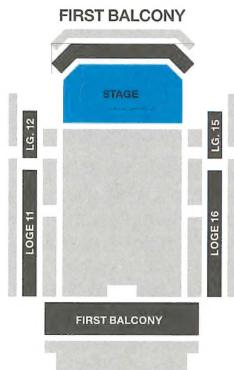
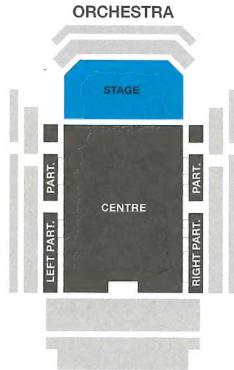
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2011-2012 CONCERT SEASON

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Method of Payment

CHEQUE ENCLOSED (Payable to the Royal Conservatory)
Cheques must be received no later than 15 business days prior to the first concert
(Tickets paid for by cheque will be held at the box office for 10 days to allow for clearing)

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(21-DIGIT GIFT CARD NUMBER)

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Method of Delivery

Please send tickets to the mailing address provided
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Box office pick-up
(Please bring photo ID to claim your tickets during our regular hours)

Ticket Policy

Box office services for Esprit Orchestra are provided by The Royal Conservatory at the TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning. Credit card purchases will be charged by TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning. Cheques must be made out to The Royal Conservatory, and received no later than 15 business days prior to the first concert.

Prices advertised on the Royal Conservatory web page and RCM marketing materials include Koerner Hall Facility Maintenance Fee (\$2.50), Koerner Hall Box Office Service Fee (\$5) and 13% HST.

Persons holding a senior or under 30 discounted ticket must be prepared to present photo ID upon entry into the concert. Persons under the age of 5 will not be admitted entry into Koerner Hall.

All sales are final. No refunds or cancellations. Unauthorized resale of tickets is prohibited. The Royal Conservatory is not responsible for tickets purchased through any unauthorized sales channel and such tickets will not be honoured.

Program, date and artists are subject to change. Should an artist be unable to appear Esprit Orchestra reserves the right to make arrangements for substitute performers. Ticket holder acknowledges and agrees to assume all risks incidental to any performance for which this ticket was issued, whether occurring before, during or after such performance. Everyone, regardless of age, must have a ticket for admission to all seating areas.

Submitting This Form

Mail or Box Office drop-off
The Royal Conservatory Box Office
273 Bloor Street West
Toronto ON M5S 1W2

Email: tickets@rcmusic.ca
Phone: (416) 408 0208

APPRECIATE. DONATE.

Ticket sales only cover 10% of the cost of Esprit's programming. Please consider making a donation to the Esprit Orchestra to help us continue the development of innovative creative programming. Please make cheques payable to 'Esprit Orchestra'. Tax receipts will be issued by Esprit for all donations (Charitable number 12258 4782 RR0001).

HEIDI MACKENZIE,
POINT OF
VIEW MAGAZINE

"[PAUK]
HAS
CREATED
IN ESPRIT
ORCHESTRA
ONE
OF THE
FINEST
CONTEMPORARY
MUSIC
ENSEMBLES
IN THE
WORLD"

ESPRIT ORCHESTRA
GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES
THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR
SUPPORT OF THE 2011-2012
CONCERT SEASON

DESIGN: MATTHEW HOFFMAN
PHOTOGRAPHY: BOH JUUNG CA



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